

Minutes for the 6/24/08 meeting of the Newington Human Rights Commission:

Present: Monica Golec, Michael Munroe, Christine Andrews, Val Ginn
Tim Manke, Phyllis DiCara, Ken Freidenberg

Absent: Jeffrey Cultrera, Ann Cameron, Scott McBride

The meeting commenced at 7:00 pm.

The first order of business was a report on the **Memorial Day Parade:**

Val Ginn reported that students from Newington High School and members of the Portuguese Club were the primary marchers in the parade for the HRC. She stated that the new HRC banner was very visible during the parade.

The HRC concluded that this was a good start in getting the HRC more visible in the community. It was agreed that the HRC should participate in next year's Memorial Day Parade.

Monica Golec thanked Val Ginn for all of her hard work on the Memorial Day Parade project.

The next order of business was discussion of the **Waterfall Festival on 9/27/08:**

Ken Freidenberg presented to the HRC three different games that could be purchased from a multicultural website for use at the festival. The HRC agreed to purchase various quantities of the games at an approximate cost of \$345.00. The money will be used from the HRC budget that expires on 6/30/08. It was agreed that if there were any games not used at the festival, they could be donated to various Newington daycare centers and preschools.

Ken stated that he put in a purchase order for the 10' x 10' tent.

Michael Munroe offered the use of two five foot long folding tables.

HRC members who are working at the festival will need to bring their own chairs.

The HRC will provide a boom box for music (Phyllis DiCara and Scott McBride have previously offered a boom box to use). Christine Andrews offered to obtain CD's from the library.

The HRC needs people to work at the booth. The festival is on 9/27/08 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. The Newington Senior and Disabled Center was identified as a possible source for volunteers.

The next order of business was the **Charter Revision Commission:**

The Newington Town Council is undertaking a revision of the Town Charter. As part of this process they are asking all town boards to attend a Charter Revision Committee meeting. Ken commented that the HRC is set up by Town Ordinance and is not specifically named in the Charter. Boards and Commissions are referenced in the Charter and therefore are being asked to partake in the Charter Revision meeting. Monica Golec agreed to attend the meeting on June 26 representing the HRC.

The next order of business was discussion of the **Food/Toiletries Drive:**

It was agreed that the food/toiletries drive will be promoted during the Waterfall festival. The plan is still for collection boxes to be set up at various town businesses during the week of September 29 – October 5, 2008.

Monica offered to email Scott McBride and Jeffrey Cultrera to get an update on their efforts concerning the food/toiletries drive.

Ken Freidenberg gave the HRC a quick update on the **Human Services Department:**

Ken stated that 106 town households are currently using the food bank. All programs have seen an increase in their caseloads as the effects of the economy are being felt by the citizens of Newington.

The next HRC meeting was agreed to take place on **Tuesday September 9th at 7:00 pm.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Michael Munroe - Secretary